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35. OVIPOSITION SITE AND NATURE OF DAMAGE OF NIGER CAPSULE FLY *DIOXYNA SORORCULA* (WIED.)
(DIPTERA: TAPHRETIDAE)

(With a text-figure)

During the survey of insect pests of niger at Jabalpur (M.P.) the capsule fly *Dioxya sororcula* (Wied.) was observed for the first time on niger infesting developing seeds in the seed capsule (Jakhmola 1984). In the present investigation a new site for egg laying by the fly was observed. The female fly laid the eggs in the inflorescence inside the ovaries of disc florets by inserting its ovipositor. The egg remains attached to the terminal end of the ovary (Fig. 1). Eggs were laid singly and only one egg was laid in an ovary. The eggs were creamy white in colour and measured 0.69 mm. in length and 0.16 mm. in width. This finding contradicts that of Jakhmola (1984) who reported that the female fly laid the eggs between the disc florets.

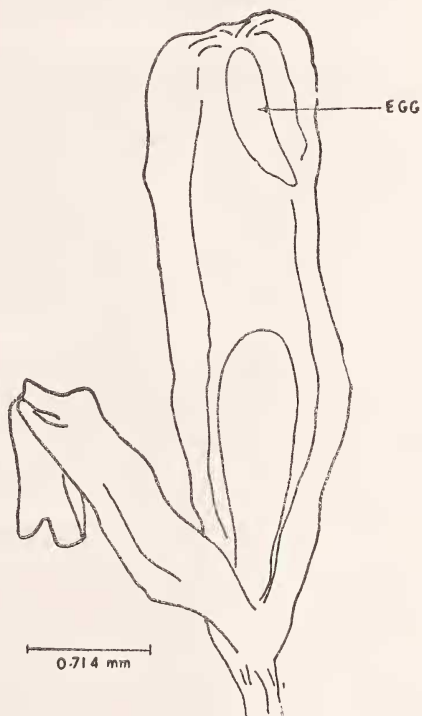


Fig. 1. Exposed ovary of niger showing the egg laid at the terminal portion of the ovary.

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36. COMMENTS ON THE PAPER "HOST PLANTS OF THE FRUIT FLIES (DIPTERA: TEPHTRITIDAE) OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT, EXCLUSIVE OF THE SUBFAMILY DACINAE" BY MOHAMMAD ZAKA-UR-RAB

The paper by Zaka-Ur-Rab (1984) contains some inaccuracies which are pointed out here.

The last sentence in the first paragraph under Introduction states: "Another closely related example is that of *Rioxa modestum* (Fabr.) which was recorded by Bezzi (1913)". But in the 1913 publication, Bezzi has shifted the species from the genus *Rioxa* and brought it under the genus *Diarrhagma*; since then the valid name is *Diarrhagma modestum* (Fabricius) and not *Rioxa modestum* (Fabr.).

In the second paragraph it is stated: "In the Indian sub-continent the Tephritidae are represented by 60 genera and 138 species. . . .". Instead, it should have been 86 genera and 310 species (Kapoor *et al.* 1980).

In the third paragraph it has been mentioned that out of 102 species comprising this group, host plants of only 21 species are known with any degree of certainty. But for 33 species host plant records have been given with certainty and many more vaguely like in Cucur-

bitae and Compositae (Asteraceae) plant families in the book by Kapoor *et al.* (1980).

In the main text of the paper, nomenclatural citation of many has been erroneously given or obsolete names have been used. *Chelyophora ceratitina* (Bezzi) should have been treated as *Acroceratitis ceratitina* (Bezzi), *Chelyophora striata* (Froggatt) as *Acroceratitis ceratitina* (Froggatt), *Rhacochlaena cassiae* Munro as *Euphranta (Staurella) cassiae* (Munro), *Stylia sororecula* (Wied.) as *Dioxyna sororecula* (Wiedemann) and *Tephritis tribulicola* Senior-White as *Orellia tribulicola* (Senior-White).

Under the subfamily Tephritinae, *Centaurea americana* Nutt has been treated as a Tephritid with a mention "This also happens to be the first report of this fruit fly from Kashmir", whereas *Centaurea americana* Nutt has been recorded in the same paper as a cultivated host plant of *Craspedoxantha octopunctata* Bezzi.

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